

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04784 281340 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OTRA, SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: VISIT BY CBS NEWS TEAM FOR NARCOTICS REPORT

1. CBS TEAM LED BY BEIRUT BUREAU CHIEF BILL MCLOUGHLIN ARRIVED KABUL UNANNOUNCED JUNE 13 TO DO NARCOTICS STORY. TEAM SECURED ORDINARY VISAS AT AIRPORT. RGA NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER NATURE OF ENTRY. HOWEVER, AFTER WAY PAVED BY CHARGE AND INFO OFFICER WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS, PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WERE ESTABLISHED FOR MCLOUGHLIN WITH MFA AND MININFO/ CULTURE WHICH SERVED AS SCREENING PROCESS FOR RGA. RGA APPARENTLY DECIDED MCLOUGHLIN RESPONSIBLE REPORTER AND FINALLY AGREED PROVIDE COOPERATION ALONG CLEARLY DEFINED LINES. MFA INDICATED THEY ASKED ONLY FOR OBJECTIVE REPORTING IN RETURN COOPERATION, AND REFERRED MCLOUGHLIN TO RECENT VISIT NYTIMES CORRESPONDENT WEINRAUB AS EXAMPLE THEY CONSIDERED EXTREMELY ONE- SIDED REPORTING. BRIEFING SESSIONS WERE ARRANGED WITH MININFO/ CULTURE (KUSHKAKI), WHO HAS POWER OF APPROVAL OVER COVERAGE ALLOWED: DEPDIRINFO, MFA (FARHANG); CHIEF UN AFFAIRS, MFA (GHAS); COMMANDANT OF POLICE & GENDARMERIE (ABDUL GHANI). THESE BRIEFINGS WERE NOT RPT NOT FILMED. A FILMED INTERVIEW, AND LONG BACKGROUND SESSION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRANGED WITH PM SHAFIQ. CITY SCENES OF KABUL ALSO FILMED. LATTER SCENES AND PM INTERVIEW EXPECTED TO BE COMBINED WITH REPORTAGE INTO FIVE MIN SPOT FOR NEWS INSERTION. MCLOUGHLIN

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PAGE 02 KABUL 04784 281340 Z

GAVE NO INDICATION OF FINAL FORM OR CONTENT. ON MISSION SIDE MCLOUGHLIN ALSO BRIEFED BY CHARGE AND JUSTICE ATTACHE. IN ADDITION, HE TALKED WITH MCCLUNG AT DILARAM HOUSE. TEAM DEPARTED JUNE 23.

2. ON EVENING JUNE 22, PR MAN FOR MININFO/ CULTURE (AHANG) HOSTED FAREWELL SITDOWN DINNER FOR TEAM. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRESIDENT BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY (KHALIL); PRESIDENT ISLAH- ANIS (RAHIMI); ED- IN- CHIEF HEWAD (WEJDAN); ED- IN- CHIEF KABUL TIMES (RAHEL); BAKHTAR PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER (HAKIM); CIO (POLICHETTI). FOLLOWING INFO ASSEMBLED FROM DIVERSE CONVERSATIONS DURING COURSE OF DINNER, NOT RPT NOT FROM DIRECT BRIEFING BY MCLOUGHLIN. AT EXPRESSED WISH RGA, MCLOUGHLIN' S MEETINGS WERE NOT RPT NOT ATTENDED BY US OBSERVER.

3. MCLOUGHLIN WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON VISIT, BUT SEEMED MORE SATISFIED WITH BACKGROUND EFFORTS THAN FILM EFFORTS. AHAND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT BUT SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH FARHANG AT MFA INDICATED MFA BELIEF THAT MCLOUGHLIN WAS DIS- APPOINTED. FARHAND SUBSEQUENTLY COMMENTED TO CIO THAT MCLOUGHLIN HAD NOT ACCEPTED MININFO ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR TRAVEL UPCOUNTRY.

4. MCLOUGHLIN SAID THAT IN LONG BACKGROUND SESSION, PM EXPRESSED CYNICISM TO HIM REGARDING UNFOLDING UN NARCOTICS EFFORT. ACCORDING MCLOUGHLIN, PM THINKS IT WILL INEVITABLY BOG DOWN IN BUREAUCRATIC MORASS OF INEFFICIENCY. PM TOLD MCLOUGHLIN RAG WOULD WELCOME BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITH USG ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. MCLOUGHLIN SEEMED TO ACCEPT PM AS CANDID PERSON, SINCERE IN ANTI- DRUG STANCE. MCLOUGHLIN SAID PM CONFIRMED ON BACKGROUND REPORT THAT PROMINENT DEPUTY WAS OR HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN OPIUM TRAFFIC, INDICATED HE WANTED TO TAKE VERY POSITIVE ANTI- DRUG ACTION, BUT FELT RGA HAD VERY LIMITED RESOURCES TO COPE WITH OVERALL SITUATION.

5. MCLOUGHLIN SAID THAT COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AFFAIR CAME UP MANY TIMES DURING HIS VISIT, INCLUDING HIS BACKGROUND SESSION WITH PM. HOWEVER, HE DECIDED CHURCH ISSUE TOO COMPLICATED TO PURSUE IN LIMITED TIME. MCLOUGHLIN INDICATED PM HAD EXPRESSED TWO VIEW- POINTS ON CHURCH: (1) AFGHANISTAN NOT READY FOR SUCH AN OSTENTATIOUS CHURCH; ANTI- CHURCH AGITATION WAS REACHING PEAK; AND HE HAD TO TAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KABUL 04784 281340 Z

LEGAL MOVES TO PREVENT WORSE ACTIONS FROM OCCURRING. PM STRESSED LEGAL ASPECTS OF CASE; (2) PM TOLD MCLOUGHLIN HE WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER APPROACH FROM FOREIGN COMMUNITY TO ERECT NEW CHURCH ALONG ACCEPTABLE ARCHITECTURAL LINES. SAID HE WOULD FIND A WAY TO MAKE

LAND AVAILABLE, PROBABLY CLOSE TO SOME EMBASSY, AND SAID HE WOULD
COME TO CUT THE RIBBON AT OPENING CEREMONY.
LEWIS

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